

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Thacher. Claims 1-4 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Thacher and further in view of official notice. Claims 5 and 9 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Withdrawn claims 15-20 are also canceled without prejudice or disclaimer so that the application can be placed in condition for allowance.

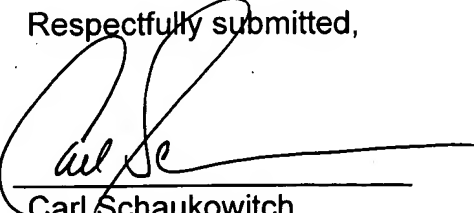
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 13, 2006

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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